

Conditional Sentences

154. A conditional sentence commonly consists of a subordinate clause introduced by *if* (protasis), and a main clause containing the conclusion (apodosis).

(a) The protasis may be an indefinite relative or temporal clause, and in general is expressed exactly like the corresponding *if* clause.

155. The condition is introduced by *εἰ if*, *ὅστις whoever*, *ἐπεὶ when(ever)*, or similar words.

156. If the subjunctive is required in the protasis, the adverb *ἄν* is regularly used. In Herodotus *εἰ + ἄν* becomes *ἦν*, *ἐπεὶ + ἄν* becomes *ἐπεάν*.

(This use of *ἄν* must be carefully distinguished from that with the optative or past indicative in independent clauses, as explained §§ 105, 106, 113.)

(a) Herodotus occasionally omits *ἄν*.

157. The negative in the condition is always *μή*; in the conclusion it is regularly *οὐ*. But if the verb of the conclusion is in a construction requiring *μή* (e.g. an imperative or hortatory subjunctive), that form of the negative is used.

158. Conditional sentences are classified as—

1. Simple Present and Past conditions.
2. Unreal Present and Past conditions.
3. More Vivid Future conditions.
4. Less Vivid Future conditions.
5. Present General conditions.
6. Past General conditions.

159. Simple present or past conditions state a supposition with no implication as to its fulfillment. The indicative is used in the condition; in the conclusion any form of the simple sentence may be used.

160. Unreal conditions imply that the supposition is contrary to a known fact. The conclusion states what *would be*, or *would have been*, if the condition *were* or *had been* realized. The condition is expressed by *εἰ* with the imperfect or aorist indicative, the conclusion by the imperfect or aorist indicative with *ἄν*. The imperfect refers to the present, or to a repeated or habitual past action, the aorist to a single occurrence in the past; e.g. *εἰ εἶδες, ἄν θαύμαζες if you had seen, you would be*